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Department of Cultural Resources  
Information & Marketing Services

## ***News Release***

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### **2nd Saturdays Programs at the Outer Banks History Center Focus on 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Civil War**

This summer, "2nd Saturdays" brings together North Carolina arts, history, and culture at Department of Cultural Resources' sites and museums on June 9, July 14, and August 11, 2012. To provide added value to our current exhibit, **"The Civil War Comes to Roanoke Island: Fishers, Fighters & Freedmen,"** the Outer Banks History Center presents three programs about the Civil War, two of which are specific to coastal North Carolina. Be sure to see our exhibit in the History Center Gallery before or after these presentations. All programs are free and open to the public and are held at the Outer Banks History Center.

#### **June 9, 2:00—3:00 p.m.: From Slave to Civil War Soldier: The Remarkable Early Life of Richard Etheridge"**

KaeLi Schurr, Curator.

Richard Etheridge is widely known as the keeper of the Pea Island Lifesaving Station, the only all African American crew in the U.S. Lifesaving Service. Less is known about his early life. Born into slavery in 1842 along North Carolina's Outer Banks, Etheridge was taught to read and write. After the Union occupied Roanoke Island in Feb. 1862, Etheridge became a resident of the Freedmen's Colony on Roanoke Island until 1863 when he enlisted in the famed African Brigade, among the first blacks in the nation to serve as Union soldiers. Arguably the military discipline and esprit de corps he experienced as a soldier contributed to his leadership capabilities as a USLSS keeper.

#### **July 14, 2:00—3:00 p.m.: "Civil War Scenes through the Lens of the Magic Lantern"**

Dennis Schurr, Local Historian; jointly hosted with Roanoke Island Festival Park and held in the meeting room adjacent to the Outer Banks History Center.

The Civil War is the first photo-documented American war, but there were also many artists who created imagery that continues to inform our view of this "War Between the States." Local

historian Dennis Schurr will pull from his personal collection of hundreds of glass plate negatives to show scenes from the Civil War throughout the nation, many of which are hand-painted images derived from photographs of the time. Schurr will also show some rarely-seen images that will pique your interest in the Civil War, in general, as Americans observe the Civil War's sesquicentennial.

**August 11, 1:00—2:00 p.m.: “The Importance of the Battle of Roanoke Island, February 7 & 8, 1862”**

Michael Zatarga, National Park Service Ranger, Fort Raleigh National Historic Site.

Although dwarfed by the titanic struggles that followed it, the Battle of Roanoke Island was an important engagement early in the Civil War. Following the Union victory and occupation of Hatteras Island and Inlet in August 1861, both sides knew that seizing control of coastal North Carolina was critical to either the protection, or disruption, of critical supply lines from ports in Wilmington, N.C. to the Confederate capital in Richmond. Ranger Zatarga will describe ways that this battle mattered from five perspectives: strategic, political, diplomatic, military, and morale.

More than 100 “2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday” events across the state bring together history and authentic North Carolina culture. For a complete [schedule of events](#), go to [www.ncculture.com](http://www.ncculture.com). For information call (919) 807-7389.

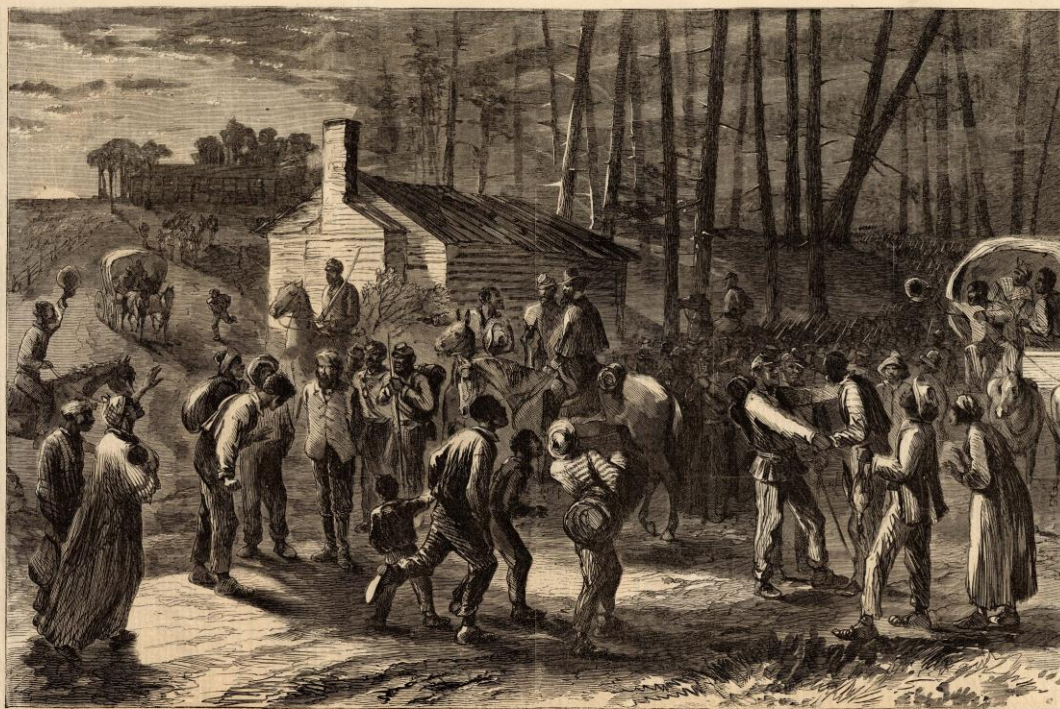
**About the Outer Banks History Center**

The Outer Banks History Center is a regional archives and research library administered by the N. C. Office of Archives and History, Department of Cultural Resources. The Center is open to the public and is located across from the Manteo waterfront at Roanoke Island Festival Park, Manteo. For more information, call (252) 473-2655, e-mail [obhc@ncdcr.gov](mailto:obhc@ncdcr.gov) or visit [www.obhistorycenter.ncdcr.gov](http://www.obhistorycenter.ncdcr.gov).

**About the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources**

The N.C. Department of Cultural Resources annually serves more than 19 million people through its 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the N.C. Arts Council, and the State Archives. Cultural Resources champions North Carolina's creative industry, which employs nearly 300,000 North Carolinians and contributes more than \$41 billion to the state's economy.

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COLORED TROOPS, UNDER GENERAL WILD, LIBERATING SLAVES IN NORTH CAROLINA.—[See Page 54.]